

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and the use of that consolidation to emphasize a narrow, minority political agenda upon the general public. The program to be aired is not news, or a documentary, but the views of a small cadre of people who carry a grievance against the Senator. The very fact that Sinclair is giving their stations no, or little, option about airing the piece highlights it's suspect nature. If Sinclair similarly allows it's stations to air Michael Moore's "9/11" I believe a balance would be reached.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.